

7

S E C R E T S

to

POWER PRAYING

HOW *to* ACCESS GOD'S WISDOM

and MIRACLES EVERY DAY

J A N E G L E N C H U R



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Jane Glenchur, 7 Secrets to Power Praying
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I lovingly dedicate this book to my mother,
Elizabeth Belz,
who taught me to persevere. No matter how
strong the wind or how high the waves, you
showed me how to stay the course.

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Foreword

I have known Jane Glenchur, M.D., for several years. Her new book, *7 Secrets to Power Praying: How to Access God's Wisdom and Miracles Every Day*, is a wonderful book full of practical insights into the nature of God and prayer. Jane's personal story from M.D. to M.O.M. while her husband is out of work is the beginning of her new walk of faith. I believe she brings to us a wealth of information that is both practical and powerful. Jane begins by addressing the resistance many believers have to including God in the smallest decisions of their lives. She deals with the cessationist view of God as One who does not communicate and why this is an unbiblical picture of God. Jane believes God likes to communicate with us, and she is determined to help us discover how to have such dialogue with Him—prayer.

Jane helps us to see that we do not have to be *super-saints* to be heard by God. Jane lays out for us the things that please God, the things that move God to release heavenly answers to earthly problems. She does this by pointing out

the importance of five keys to answered prayers: petition, passion, presence, preparedness and perseverance.

Jane addresses our skeptical mindsets and our small world-view of God. She asks if we go to Google or to God for our answers. She cautions us not to allow our brains to limit the unlimited wisdom of God. In her third chapter she deals with the role common sense plays, including what Scripture tells us about logic and reasoning, pointing out that the hotline to heaven is connected to the right brain. Jane encourages us and shows us how to make the switch from predominant dependence upon left-brain thinking to trusting in faith from the right brain.

Jane has written about seven secrets to more abundant living: (#1) Say Yes First; (#2) Give God Your Password; (#3) Tap into God's Heart; (#4) Toss the Pros and Cons List; (#5) Know When to Give Up; (#6) Open Locked Doors; and (#7) Employ the Power of Testimonies.

There is also much more to the book than these seven secrets of prayer. It is packed full of practical, helpful teaching and instruction on how to live a more abundant life by staying connected to God. Jane teaches us about the absolute power of learning how to say yes to God, pointing out that our inability to say yes is rooted in hidden doubts, unbelief and fear. She raises the questions, What does yes actually mean spiritually? What do we do if we cannot say yes to God?

Jane writes from the experience of a mother as well as a doctor. Her chapter "Give God Your Password" is a favorite of mine. This chapter teaches how to turn miserable circumstances into miraculous blessings. Readers will discover how to preempt bad moods and keep connected to the messages from heaven.

Jane indicates that instead of prayer being a laundry list of requests, it should be a time of engaging God. Information gained through communion with Him is the way to obtain direction for a satisfying, meaningful future. This leadership from God is better and wiser than our pros and cons lists. Jane invites us into a relationship with God where even when we face locked doors, when we are outwitted and outnumbered by our obstacles, when our circumstances are insurmountable, God is still able to bring us into victory. Learn how to let God open doors of opportunity for you. Jane admonishes her readers not to miss out on their miracles because they quit too soon. In this chapter she teaches how the application of John 3:8 can reverse impossibilities and turn them into successes.

Jane shows how sharing your story of what God is doing in your life multiplies the blessing, increasing God's fruit in our lives. She helps readers learn how to give their stories.

Jane draws the book to its final chapters by focusing on very down-to-earth teaching on the specifics of making prayer requests, how to block interference from the enemy and what to do if you are met with silence. It gives a detailed discussion on the importance of confirming the directives you receive and how to obtain those confirmations. Once again she illustrates with Scripture and personal stories.

One of my favorite chapters is "Unmasking Deception." Jane asks, How do we discern deception from God's truth? How do we confirm whether we are hearing from God, our flesh or the father of lies? She teaches us how to know which opportunities are from God and which ones to avoid. She teaches how to recognize what "cloaking" is and how to unmask the hidden schemes of the enemy, saving us time, money and frustration.

Foreword

Jane takes us into the realm of the impossible and shows us what we can do to begin to see the impossible made possible. She does this through narrative and biblical examples and supporting Scripture. Her heart's desire is for the reader to gain a better understanding of the character and nature of God and His desire to interact with us. She reveals to the reader how to access God's promises of provision and how to navigate the details of God's divine directives. Jane points out the importance of time management if we are to have the time to set aside to hear God.

I loved the last three chapters of the book, finding them to be very practical. In these chapters she teaches us how to persevere in hard times and how to stay encouraged in the midst of disappointment. You will learn how God's no may mean something better and how divine declarations position you to receive. You will learn seven ways to reduce the number of errors you make, as well as discovering what you can learn from your mistakes and how to avoid repeating them.

Dr. Jane Glenchur has written a most practical and inspiring book about the possibilities in God and God's possibilities through us. I believe you will be very glad you purchased and read *7 Secrets to Power Praying: How to Access God's Wisdom and Miracles Every Day*.

Randy Clark, founder and president,
The Apostolic Network
of Global Awakening

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P A R T 1

Partnering *with* God

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Miracles in Minutes?

I am not a hobby shopper. Some women salivate at every sale sign and peruse the racks and shelves for entertainment. But for me, shopping is like having my teeth cleaned—a necessity that must be endured. I might still be wearing last decade's styles if God had not infiltrated my aversion to stores, taken the pain out of purchasing—and transformed my understanding of prayer.

It all started with an orange carpet stain. My daughter, who was in elementary school at the time, accidentally spilled juice on the carpet in our family room. Discovering the dried stain days later, I shot up a desperate prayer: “Lord, help me find something to get rid of this stain so that she won’t feel bad about the spill (and so I won’t be upset!).”

Carpet stain removers lined the lowest shelf of cleaning supplies at Walmart, forcing me to kneel down to examine them. Miraculous claims of stain-cleaning power shouted

at me from every can. I pondered all the choices, wondering how to choose the best one. To my relief, hardly a soul graced the store at eight in the morning as I, a usually dignified physician, scooted on my knees sideways down the aisle asking God about stain removers. Did He really care about something so insignificant? Would He be angry if I asked?

With a smidgen of faith and a mountain of self-consciousness, I placed my hand on top of a can of cleaner, closed my eyes and asked God, *Is this the right one?* I waited a few seconds. No answer. What was I expecting, thunder from heaven? I moved on to the next. Nothing. As my hand rested on the fourth can a voice proclaimed, “That is the *best* stain remover.” It was an audible voice! An angel? My eyes flew open. I heard it again. “That is the *best* stain remover.”

I turned toward the direction of the voice. Two frail-looking, white-haired women were ambling down the aisle toward me—not exactly my concept of angelic beings. I paused, my hand motionless on the can. But as they passed behind me one of the duo declared for the third time, “That is the *best* stain remover.” I bought the product and the stain vanished.

That incident revolutionized shopping for me. If God cared about a carpet stain, would it be okay to seek His wisdom for other purchases? I needed to buy shoes for our daughter, for instance. What was the harm in asking? God is omniscient; He would know where to find the perfect fit. After all, nothing rivaled trying to find shoes for Amelia’s narrow feet. Her pint-sized patience evaporated in seconds, catalyzing an avalanche of anger in store after store as she tried on dozens of shoes only to leave empty-handed. Since binding her feet was not an option, I despaired at shoe shopping with her.

This, however, was a new day. Before clambering into the car together we asked God to show us where to purchase her new shoes. As we waited expectantly, a certain store came to my mind. Would we really find the right fit on our first try? We decided to test it out. Less than an hour later an adorable pair of new shoes adorned her feet. We were on to something huge.

The next lesson involved Amelia's Christmas present. She had her heart set on a new bicycle to replace the one she had outgrown. Just days before the holiday, I suddenly realized there was only a one-hour window to purchase the bike and hide it before she got home from school. I had no idea what color she wanted or where to buy it. Why had I not checked? Was it expecting too much to ask God for the store *and* the color? Would I be able to hear God in just a few minutes?

I quieted my thoughts and prayed. Pink was her favorite color, but purple was the impression I received. What store had a purple 24-inch girl's bike? In my mind's eye I saw a retailer in an area of town that I normally do not frequent. Desperation and doubt intermixed with faith as I drove to the store and hurried to the sporting goods section. There in the center of the aisle stood a purple 24-inch girl's bike, waiting just for me. *All* the other bikes hung from the wall. God's provision could not have been more obvious. When Amelia received the bicycle on Christmas day, she exclaimed, "Purple is the color I wanted!"

Not only did these experiences help me begin to look at shopping as an adventure and teach me to be a good steward of our finances, but something much greater took place: I sensed that this was just the beginning of learning to pray with power. Would God help with all of our needs, or was there a

limit to what we could ask—or how often? If God cared about a bicycle, did He care about healing—or was that too big a request? And how best to pray? Was there some way to access His wisdom and power for answers to our needs every day?

In my apprenticeship of prayer, begun that morning with a stain in the carpet, I learned seven secrets—practical how-to steps to access God’s wisdom for personalized answers to prayer.

Some believers have been taught not to bother God unless it is for major decisions like deciding whom to marry or what house to buy or finding the right doctor. Other believers think the opposite—that “big needs” like healing are basically impossible to receive through prayer, so trying for something smaller has a better chance of success.

I cannot find either restriction anywhere in Scripture. The Bible actually says the opposite: “Casting the whole of your care [*all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns*, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully” (1 Peter 5:7 AMPLIFIED, emphasis added). The Contemporary English Version states it this way: “God cares for you, so turn all your worries over to him.” This is a directive, not a suggestion. Besides, what determines how big the problem must be before involving God? Is there a table of weights and measures for prayer in the back of the Bible so that if you are going to purchase something that weighs fewer than a hundred pounds you are on your own, but anything over that is fair game to inquire of the Lord? Or is it futile to pray for migraine headaches, but you can feel confident about praying for a sprained toe? I mean no disrespect, but why limit the Lord when He offers to help us in *all* of our cares and concerns?

Jesus said: “Everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened” (Matthew 7:8). Our part is to ask. Jesus also said: “If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!” (Matthew 7:11).

His words challenge us to ask God for *anything* that we lack. After all, when our children have needs to be met, my husband, Tom, and I will do whatever we can to meet them. Our heavenly Father says He will do even *much more* for us. I think He means it.

Christ commands us not to worry about what we will eat, drink or wear because He will provide for all of our needs when we seek Him first (see Matthew 6:25–33). Since He promises to supply, why would He not help us find that supply?

Some denominations teach that God stopped speaking to His people; that God no longer communicates through dreams, visions or an inner, quiet voice; that He only speaks to us now through His Word. Where does Scripture say that?

The book of Acts is replete with stories of believers being guided by the Holy Spirit. Jesus Himself said: “It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you” (John 16:7 NKJV). He also said: “When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into *all truth*; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you *things to come*” (John 16:13 NKJV, emphasis added). Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit, whom the believers were instructed to wait for after His resurrection and who filled them to overflowing on the day of Pentecost (see Acts 2:1–4).

It would seem that the Holy Spirit's job description has been markedly restricted if He no longer speaks truth to us and no longer tells us "things to come." It was not just the disciples who received the Spirit of truth, but all 120 believers waiting and praying in the Upper Room, and all of us since then who have placed our faith in Christ as Lord and Savior.

In his book *Surprised by the Voice of God*, Jack Deere describes his journey from unbelieving believer to believing believer. He describes himself as a former cessationist who used to believe the Bible is the *only* way God communicates with man. He focused exclusively on biblical knowledge *apart* from a personal relationship with Christ. Please do not misunderstand. I believe the Bible is the inerrant Word of God. So does Jack Deere. But as he discovered—and I also believe and experience on a regular basis—God still communicates with His people just as He promised He would.

God created us for relationship. He wants His sheep to hear His voice and does not restrict Himself in how He talks to us. Why, then, would we restrict Him? His sheep are ordinary people like you and me. If Jesus says in Scripture that He wants to talk to me, I do not want to miss any of His communications.

The Amplified translation of Jeremiah 33:3 instructs us that when we call upon God, He will not only respond but show us "great and mighty things, fenced in and hidden, which you do not know (do not distinguish and recognize, have knowledge of and understand)."

He demonstrates His love in tangible ways as He supplies our needs. Every detail of our lives matters to Him, and He delights in blessing us. We honor God when we put Him first

in everything. I told the story of buying a carpet cleaner, for instance, not to trivialize God, but to illustrate His great love for us. He cares about us because we are His children. Our problems matter to Him. If we are struggling with tough decisions or have needs that we cannot see any way to meet, God will help us make wise choices. *We can access His wisdom and miracles every day.*

I have learned that engaging with God about whatever I am facing stretches my faith. The determination to grow my faith means I must be willing to take risks and give myself grace when I fail. The rewards are well worth it. My mistakes have taught me not to fret, not to move in haste and to wait until I have peace. Asking for God's wisdom has taught me that He is personal, patient and provides much better than I can with my limited human understanding.

That is the heart of this book, learning to partner with God. In so doing, you, too, will develop an intimate relationship with the Lord and experience miraculous answers to prayer.

My challenge to you today is to begin believing that God cares about your concerns—big and small. This is just the beginning of an exciting journey to the heart of God. We will be learning, in the first part of this book, to rethink our limited view of prayer as we partner with Him for answers. In part 2, we will explore seven specific secrets that unleash the power of prayer. Then, in the final part, we will learn tools for putting the seven power secrets into action. I will share many more faith-building stories as we go along to show you how these principles work.

Keep in mind: When you ask for God's help, He receives the glory and your faith multiplies. It is a win-win proposition.

Remember . . .

- No problem or decision is too insignificant for God.
Cast all your cares on Him.
- Engaging God throughout the decision-making process grows your faith.
- God's promise to provide for your needs comes with directions, *if you listen.*
- Are you willing to take some risks to partner with God in your everyday decisions?